

Appendix H
Essential Fish Habitat Information and Coordination



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APR 27 2004

Mr. Rodney McInnis
Acting Regional Administrator for Protected Resources,
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
National Marine Fisheries Service
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

**Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT – CABRILLO DEEPWATER PORT PROJECT**

Dear Mr. McInnis:

On September 3, 2003, BHP Billiton LNG International, Inc. submitted an application seeking to own, construct and operate a deepwater port (DWP). The proposed port, known as Cabrillo Port, would be located approximately 14 miles offshore of Ventura County, California. The BHP Billiton application was provided to Mr. Bryant Chesney of your staff on September 9, 2004. The applicant will soon be providing updates of the application to ensure that your staff has the latest information available for your agency's review.

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), in conjunction with the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the construction and operation of the Cabrillo Deepwater Port Project (Port), a Floating, Storage, and Regasification Unit (FSRU). This deepwater port would be the receiving point for shipments of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from LNG carriers that routinely cross the world's oceans and deliver this product to LNG facilities in North America, Asia and Europe. Through the use of heat exchangers on Cabrillo Port, the LNG would revert back to natural gas for delivery into the existing natural gas pipelines of the Southern California Gas Company.

Preparation of the EIS/EIR is being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Section 102[2][c]) and its implementing regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1500 and CEQA. The EIS/EIR will address the overall environmental impacts of establishing and operating the Port, including the construction of associated pipelines from the Port to an onshore receiving pipeline system.

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammals Protection Act, as amended, our EIS/EIR will analyze the impacts of the Proposed Action on protected species. In order to fully assess the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action on protected resources, we are requesting a list of species of concern that occur within the region of influence (ROI) and a list of any additional concerns that NOAA Fisheries may have regarding the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on federally listed species or other

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protected species such as marine mammals. We will also consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game regarding the presence of threatened and endangered species under their jurisdiction.

Presently, we do not believe that the Proposed Action would have an adverse impact on essential fish habitat (EFH). As such, and in accordance with Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended, we do not believe an EFH consultation is required at this time. As stated above, we are currently preparing an EIS/EIR, and we intend to fully assess the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action on EFH within the region of influence (ROI). Your concerns and comments regarding the construction and operation of the Port and its possible impacts on EFH are important to the USCG.

We look forward to working with your office on this project. Please send any comments/correspondence to the USCG through one of the following methods:

- (1) By mail to:
Headquarters, U.S. Coast Guard
Mr. Mark Prescott
Chief, Office of Deepwater Ports Standards (G-MSO-5)
Room 1210
2100 Second Street, SW
Washington, DC 20593
- (2) Or, by fax at (202) 267-4570
- (3) Or by E-mail to mprescott@comdt.uscg.mil

Thank you for your assistance. If you have questions about the proposed establishment of the Cabrillo Deepwater Port Project or about the EIS/EIR please contact me at (202) 267-0225.

Sincerely,



MARK PRESCOTT
Chief, Office of Deepwater Ports Standards Division
By direction